

PROPERTY PLANNING COMMON ELEMENTS

COMPONENTS OF MASTER PLANS

GENERAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The following describes general property administration and management policies and provisions that apply to all DNR managed lands. This section contains information on **General Administration**, which includes the following:

- Funding Constraints
- Facility Management
- Inspection of Designated Use Areas
- Public Health and Safety
- Emergency Action Plan
- Refuse Management
- Research

General Administration

All general property administration, resource management, and public use management on DNR lands will follow all applicable statutes, administrative codes, manual codes, and handbooks.

Management objectives and prescriptions for general property management, resource management, and public use management described in master plans will be implemented contingent upon the availability of staff and material resources, and may be modified as needed to respond to unpredictable or catastrophic events (e.g., storm damage, severe insect or disease infestations, new non-native invasive species, etc.).

Funding Constraints

Implementation of a master plan is dependent upon staffing and funding allocations that are set by a process outside of the master plan. Funding for land acquisition can come from a variety of federal (e.g., Pittman-Robertson and others), state (e.g., Stewardship), local, and private (e.g., land trusts) sources as well as land donations. Capital and operational funding for the Department is established by the state legislature. Funds also are provided by federal programs and occasionally from private sources. Development projects similarly follow an administrative funding and approval process outside of the master plan. Many of the initiatives contained within the plan are dependent upon additional funding and staffing support. Therefore, a number of legislative and administrative processes outside of the master plan will determine the rate at which a master plan will be implemented.

Properties that have either been purchased or managed using funding from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (also known as the Pittman-Robertson Act) or the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act have additional management constraints that must be considered. The statutes and applicable regulations prohibit a state fish and wildlife agency from allowing recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the primary purpose for which the State acquired, developed, or is managing the land.



Facility Management

All infrastructure used for habitat management and public access shall be inspected and maintained as required in program guidance and manual codes. This infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, dikes, spillways, water control devices, roads, gates, parking lots, boat launches, and buildings.

Dikes and water control structures are essential for controlling water levels in flowages and enhancing emergent marsh habitats. The following routine activities apply to the maintenance of dikes and water control structures:

- Conduct dike maintenance and approved water manipulation activities.
- Maintain dikes to secondarily provide pedestrian access for hunters and trappers.
- Control beaver and muskrat populations to mitigate burrowing and damming.
- Plan and implement major maintenance of dikes on approximately 20-year rotations.

The property manager may relocate or temporarily close road and trail segments or other public use facilities as deemed necessary to conduct timber harvests or other habitat management activities or for public safety or law enforcement reasons.

All facilities, roads, and structures providing either public recreation or supporting public recreation activities or other administrative services will be designed and constructed in compliance with state building codes and department design standards, including NR 44. The location and design of new structures, roads, or trails must also be consistent with the management objectives and land use classification for the area in which they are located. Significant remodeling or new construction projects will include LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) standards for energy efficiency to the greatest extent possible.

Inspection of Designated Use Areas

All designated use areas must be inspected semi-annually (s. 23.115, Wis. Stats.). Vegetation inspections in designated use areas must be performed semi-annually with one of the inspections performed by a person trained in the identification of hazard trees. Monitoring will pay particular attention to forest infestations that pose a serious threat to forest resources such as red pine pocket decline, heterobasidiom root disease (formerly known as annosum root rot), oak wilt, pine bark beetles, gypsy moth, forest tent caterpillar, two-lined chestnut borer, and emerald ash borer. Control measures will be performed as needed in consultation with Forest Health staff.

Public Health and Safety

All facilities will comply with federal, state, and local health and sanitation codes. The property manager has the authority to close trails and other facilities on the property when necessary due to health, safety, or environmental damage concerns. In designated public use areas, such as designated parking lots and designated trails, trees or other natural elements that are deemed public hazards will be removed. Safety inspections are done at least twice per year.

Emergency Action Plan

Each property maintains an emergency action plan on file that describes staff response and coordination with other agencies to natural disasters as they affect public safety and facilities. This plan is reviewed annually.



Refuse Management

Refuse and recyclables are collected by a private contractor from designated sites at campgrounds and other primary use facilities. Visitors are required to carry out any refuse they bring when no designated refuse or recycling receptacles are available. Burying of refuse is not allowed anywhere on department properties.

Research

Department properties are diverse in character, located throughout the state and containing examples of all major habitats and landforms as well as many rare features. Many department properties, therefore, may offer strategic locations for experimental trials or research on a wide variety of topics or specific features. The research conducted by department managers, scientists, and educational partners can be beneficial for the properties, the department, and the general public. Scientific research that is compatible with the ecological and aesthetic attributes of a property generally is supported. Property managers or supervisors have the authority to approve or deny requests for research projects on department properties. All research activities must be consistent with the land management classifications and management objectives of the area where the project will take place. A Scientific Collectors Permit or Research License Application is required for research involving collection of live fish, nests, or carcasses of wild animals or the taking and possessing of live wild animals from the wild. Additional permits are required for research activities on State Natural Areas and activities involving listed species.

